



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A13010002

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We received an allegation that a PI¹ submitted altered letters of support with several NSF proposals, misrepresenting the content and/or purpose of the letters. We determined that there were no alterations and no misrepresentations in the letters. Some of the letters did not pertain to the specific proposals for which they were submitted, but that fact was facially apparent.

Furthermore, the letters were irrelevant, because NSF policy is that, "unless required by a specific program solicitation, letters of support should not be submitted as they are not a standard component of an NSF proposal, and, if included, a reviewer is under no obligation to review these materials. . . . NSF may return without review proposals that are not consistent with these instructions."² Since the solicitations to which this PI's proposals were submitted did not require the submission of letters of support, the letters should not have been submitted. The remedy available to the program when such letters are submitted is to return the proposal.

Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action taken.

¹

² NSF Grant Proposal Guide, January 2011, pdf page 47, available at goo.gl/VEFZle.